

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Party Policy in the Purchase of Shipping	DATE DISTR.	31 May 1955
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In accordance with the terms of the Six-Year Plan, Poland should have a merchant marine of 500,000 tons (gross) by the end of 1955.
2. The shipbuilding program did not produce the expected tonnage, largely because of the quantity of ships delivered to the USSR, and the Poles are now faced with the problem of making up the shortage, which at present amounts to some 120,000 tons.
3. The Party decided that the only way of doing so was by purchasing shipping abroad. By applying this policy, the Party is achieving a double aim:
 - a. Completing the Six-Year Plan (on paper).
 - b. Camouflaging the high percentage of shipping built for the USSR.Both points are of extreme propaganda value.
4. The Party has also decided on the policy of buying obsolete or obsolescent vessels cheaply, provided they are capable of being operated for five to six years without too much trouble. The reason for this policy is not quite clear but it is explained by some Party officials as being a temporary measure to tide over the period of shortage. The Party seems confident that Poland will have all the shipping required by the end of the next Five-or Six-Year Plan period. This may mean that the USSR will not require as many ships as it did during the last six year period, but no such statement has been made at any Party meetings.
5. Representatives of Centromor and the Polish Ocean Lines have been particularly active abroad during the recent months and their activities seem to have increased lately.

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Foreign currency seems to be available at short notice without any haggling, which shows that the purchase of shipping is high on the priority list.

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